### WITH LADY NICOTINE

Queer New Preparations of Tobacco Coming in Demand.

Austrian and Italian "Rat Tails" Which Are Valued by Some Above the Most Fragrant Perfectos.

New York Press. Have you ever smoked a peg tip, a rat tall, an imported Virginian, a Cuban cabana, a Bowery cocktail or a Japanese cigarette? If not, and you wish a closer acquaintance with my Lady Nicotine you have pleagures and nightmare enough in store to entitle you to a week's vacation. Anyway, you will probably need longer

of these on the same day. The "smokers" of New York are as cosmopolitan as the city itself. It is wonderful how many forms the soothing weed takes on. Likewise wonderful are the different odors under which the smell of real tobacco can be disguised.

time than that to recuperate if you try all

The Chinaman can endure the strongest "smoke." No doubt the opium habit developed his hardihood. Occasionally you will see a Mongolian carrying a cigarette lightly between his lips, but in the canons of Mott street he is considered an effeminate fellow, who had degenerated into Americanisms. Perique is the smoke of the real Chinaman. Not the perique which you get in the boxes-one pipe of that will make the ordinary smoker dizzy and homesick-but perique as much stronger than that as that is stronger than the mild mixtures flavored by the confectioner's art. This strength is acquired by pressing the natural leaf into the most compact rolls possible. Then it is soaked in rum and incased in a small canvas tube, which is tied at both ends. This is wrapped up in a coil of rope tightly drawn, so that there will be no opportunity to expand. Let this he on a tobacconist's shelf for six months and you will have a plug as black as ebony, which would have been a fit finishing ingredient to the witches' broth in Macbeth. Yet its taste is very sweet to John-almost as sweet as opium. When he wishes to swear off on the latter, a feat he sometimes attempts, after having been converted to Christianity, and in which he usually fails, he always takes to perique as a sort of intermediary step between his d love and ultimate reformation. John's is the only Bowery smoke which is expensive. In this, at least, cheapness cannot be given as an excuse for eccentricity. He pays the seemingly fabulous price of \$1.50 for one plug; but it lasts him a long

"RAT-TAIL" SMOKERS. Rat tails are the smoke of the Italians of Mulberry street on Sunday. The other six days of the week they devote themselves to short wooden pipes, which they fill with a tobacco called Black Tom, as black as ink and giving forth a vile smell. Rat tails cost all the way from 2 cents up to 10 cents apiece, although the latter priced are, of course, imported. A few dealers tried to introduce the rat tails among the Germans and the Irish of the East Side. They afterward regretted their enterprise to the extent of one customer for every rat tail sold.

The rat tail is rightly named. It looks exactly like the tail of the wharf rat, and to the ncophyte it would be about as pleasant to smoke. The tobacco leaves are wound around a straw very tightly, and the tube through the middle of the "Dago's cher-oot" (as it is dubbed in Cherry-street parlance) gives a good draught to it. The cheaper grades of the poorest quality of tosee are used, and are said to be highly "doctored" by chemicals to obtain the peeuliar and obnoxious flavor. A Sicilian peasant would consider a perfecto quite as great an abomination as we consider his rat tail. Therefore the queer little tobacco stores about Mulberry Bend offer for sale only rat tails, cigarettes, plug tobacco and snuff, and possibly one box of very bad

The Austrians are devoted to their Virginians, which are imported from their mother country. "I have never known anybody," said a dealer, "save an American, or some one who lived in Austria for a long time, to smoke a Virginian." They seem to be a sort of aristocratic rat tails, being made of finer grade and a little milder tobacco, and having both ends pointed instead of one. Their cost averages about dcuble that of rat tails.

The Hebrews of the East Side are, of course, cigarette fiends, especially the Russians. Some of the German Hebrews take to the pipe. As a general rule, they roll their cigarettes, and they are not particular as to the brand or the kind of tobacco so long as it will "make up" readily. Every Jewish tailor finds a few intervals during the day to take out his cigarette papers and

his tobacco pouch and to prepare a "smoke. You cannot find an old world Hebrew who chews tobacco. He loathes the habit even as he loathes the eating of pork. His slim fingers may be yellow with nicotine, but never is there a dirty streak running from the corners of his mouth to his chin. A few of the Hungarian Jews smoke rat tails. The old Irishmen stick to the clay pipe. It is thick and solid, and they make it last for several months. The Scotchmen also smoke clay pipes, but they choose those with thin bowls and long stems. There are only a few Scots in New York and, therefore, the demand for this kind of clay pipe

SAILORS SMOKE PLUG. There is a plug of tobacco which is the universal favorite of the sailors. It is sold very seldom to anyone else. It is a solid cake, and is about an inch in depth, four inches in length and two inches in width. The color is of a peculiar dun shade found in no other plug tobacco. The attractive features of it are that it holds its flavor and moisture for a long time and that it is good either for chewing or for smoking - and

The plugs which the Danes favor for chewing-and there are more Danes in New York than you imagine-consist of ropes of wound tobacco pressed tightly together. They never care for any other kind. In the matter of smokes, however, they readily take to American cigars.

there are few Jack Tars who are not ad-

dicted to both habits, some taking snuff be-

The Frenchmen around lower Fifth avenue who have been in the country for many years have become confirmed cigar smokers. The Greeks, the Russians and all of far East foreigners adhere to the thick, short, loosely rolled cigarettes, which are made usually in Egypt or Turkey, and are easily distinguished not only by their shape, but by the murky fumes and that heavy, peculiar penetrating odor which will go all through a house in five minutes. Of late these Oriental smokes have sprung into great popularity in this city among all classes. Five years ago, outside of the dethe East Side, one could find only now and then an uptown tobacconist who made any pretension to keep them in stock. But today there are a great many Americans who are confirmed cigarette smokers, and three or four prosperous establishments in town make a business of manufacturing cigarettes from the raw tobacco shipped from Turkey, as this plan saves something in the matter of duty. The fact that one can pay as high as a dollar for a small box of high grade Egyptian or Turkish cigarettes destroys for the man of wealth the old allusion that eigarettes are "common and cheap." No doubt the world's fair and the incoming of many things Oriental, not to forget the famous danse du ventre, led a great many to investigate the fabled wealths of solace of a Turkish "smoke" with the result that they became confirmed devotees. Dealers say that the sales of Turkish pipes also have increased of late.

AMERICANS LIKE CIGARS. The briarwood, English bulldog pipe continues to grow in favor, and there are few al of them upon their mantelpieces by the side of a jar of choice mixture. Probably the cigar, however, will always be the these suits are black, blue and green. American smoke. Americans smoke better cigars and pay more for their smokes than the people of any other nation in the world. The sentiment of the Scotchman who sald: whisky; but there's no such thing as bad whisky," must also apply to cigars on the Bowery, if one is to judge by the huge Manhattan cocktail, equal in quantity to two or-

dinnery eights and selling for five cents, Infanta Eulalie, who delights in puffing at a dainty little roll of paper and tobacco, gave the custom of smoking cigarettes those living neighbor to the Four Hundred, a wonderful boost. One of the firms which manufacture Turkish eigarettes now furnishes a small size cigarette for the boudoirs of rich women, bearing the monogram or the coat of arms of the hostess. The Sultan, himself, is no better served. There are also some Japanese cigarettes smoked by women. They are highly perhe odor is the farthest removed rom that of real tobacco of any cigarette. at's toethless and don't carry a knife," among the season's new creations.

the necessity of biting or cutting off the end of a cigar. A little peg is fastened into the end of it, and when this is withdrawn the cigar is ready for smoking. Whenever you see a man smoking a cigar

which looks like an augur bit you may be pretty sure he is a Yankee. This idea of twisting three cigars together in a bunch is an old one, and New Hampshire people, es-There are 'many tricks played upon the ur buying Havana cigars when you are buying cigars made in Cuba, but out of

good natured smoking world. We think we Virginia tobacco which has been shipped. there. It is a fact that there is more raw tobacco imported into Cuba than there is exported. Again, the German insists upon tobacco in large paper packages imported from the Fatherland which bears a recommendation of merit, a rude cut of an antebellum planter on horseback and the state-ment that it is selected from the finest Virginia product.

### OFFERINGS OF THE POETS.

Hope-Memory. Dear friends, this eve may be the last We meet together, ere the ship That sails to-morrow bears away Each from the other's eye and lip. Then let us drink this health in laughter-"Hope till old age, and Memory after."

The rising morning may be gray; The voyage lone and seas be wide; And clouds come down to close the day, That darkles o'er the trackless tide. Still, let us drink this health in laughter-"Hope till old age, and Memory after."

And if, O friends, whom now I see, We join near sunset on the strand, As your boat silent passes me, I'll reach across and touch your hand; And we will pledge this health in laughter-"Hope till old age, and Memory after."

> -Ida May Davis. Otherishness.

Dear heart, I would not selfish be-All broad and noble be my view; And so, to aid humanity, I'll think of you.

So, too, you must your ego iose-Blot out base personality; And when in such high mood you muse, Just think of me!

-Emma Carleton. New Albany, Ind.

The Growing of a Soul. Hear ye this parable. A man Did plant a garden. Vine and tree Alike, in course of time, began To put forth fair and pleasantly. The rains of heaven, the persuading sun

Yet some trees willful grew, and some Strong vines grew gayly in the sun, With gaudy leaves, that ever came To naught. And yet each flaunting one Did flourish on triumphantly and glow Like sunset clouds in all their moving show.

But lo! The harvest found them not.

The soul had perished from them. Mold

And muck and leaf iay there to rot, And furnish nourishment untold To patient tree and lowly creeping vine That grew as grew the husbandman's de-

Hear then this lesson; hear and heed: I say that chaff shall perish; say Man's soul is like unto a seed It grows and grows if he will have it grow; It perishes if he must have it so. -Joaquin Miller, in the City Beautiful.

The Garden at Swainston. Nightingales warbled without, Within was weeping for thee Shadows of three dead men Walked in the walk with me-Shadows of three dead men, and thou wast one of the three.

Nightingales sang in his woods; The Master was far away; Nightingales warbled and sung Of a passion that lasts but a day. in the house in his coffin the prince of courtesy lay.

Two dead men have I known In courtesy like to thee; Two dead men have I loved With a love that ever will be; Three dead men have I loved, and thou art last of the three.

Spring Blossoms. The Lily praises God with open heart, The Rose in perfumed chambers prays

The Tulip flashes like a trumpet's blare, Love's blood-red banner answering Love's

Crocus and Daisy their snug secrets keep, Of the Spring wakening and the Winter

While lowly Grass and Dandelion lay Their green and gold to deck the King's -Julia Ward Howe.

When Love Goes By.

When love goes by, what can a woman do? Is there no prayer to pray, no suit to sue? Though he be fled beyond the wintry sea, Will not his errant steps come back to me? Will he not answer to my heart's low cry? Though he goes by?

Nay, sweet, upon thy yearning lips command The seal of silence. Reach no asking hand To love once flown. Go on thy lonely ways; Turn thee a face of smiles to the world's Or else sink down upon life's thorns and die When love goes by. -Eliza Calvert Hall

The Dust Speaks.

I was a thing of low degree Till the first man was formed of me-But since that miracle of birth I am the sentient part of the earth. Through every fragile grain I feel

Bloom-angels of the springtide steal, Bearing to grosser mire and clod The resurrection gifts of God. -William H. Hayne, in Sunday-school

### FASHION NOTES.

A broad sash of soft watered silk accompanies many of the new spring toilets. Skirts of plain or small-figured black satin are worn with odd waists of fancy silk. Capes and loose wraps are a necessity not to be ignored while large sleeves are in style, so they are sure to be worn more

The low prices of silks of excellent quality and of novel and beautiful patterns have had much to do with making them the rage for the spring and summer seasons. The black and white combination is not over with, and some white lace insertions in heavy and light weights are decorated with cut jet beads on the edge and center. Lace, ribbon and jet are prominent features of trimming, and yet black watered silk for a combination is as necessary as it was in the winter. The bright colors of spring goods need toning down.

All-black hats, bonnets and fancy toques with color introduced in their trimming preferably in lovely French flower wreaths, nodding aigrettes, and rose clusters, still retain their vogue for dressy wear. Serge and sacking skirts with cape en suite for street wear will be worn with

serpentine waists of changeable silk or satin. Short jackets are made with revers that widen to form a deep collar across the back, which is deeper yet over the sleeve Black moire will continue to be used for decorating silk and woolen fabrics of all

shades, while the demand for watered silk in colors will be decidedly limited in comparison. The brightness of many of the season's dress fabrics demands a toning Many of the plainer serge and sacking gowns made by the best of tailors are finished by two or three rows of

heavy stitching, and rely upon the silk shirtwaist for the only bit of brightness Although very fashionable, the short pointed overskirt is making but little headway in popular favor. Modistes say that many of their best patrons call it a dawdylooking style, and refuse to adopt it on either day or evening toilets. The long overdress, a la Grecque, has better success. The beautiful Valenciennes laces made by hand became too expensive for anything but rare uses, therefore the machine-

wrought designs have been brought to the

highest perfection in Calais, Roubaix and

Nottingham, and are in great use on gowns

and fine lingerie. Condray and Brussels manufacture all of the hand-made Valen-

ciennes, which is never out of style for

those who can afford it. While the gored skirt is an ideal one for the short, stout figure, the modiste can greatly relieve the monotony of this severe skirt for her tall, slender patrons. Double and triple skirts in Grecian style, flaring bell models with paniers or short apron overskirts, skirts with deep yoke tops, and other klited or accordion-pleated their entire length-each and all come up for favor

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### MILLIONAIRE CORNER

One Street Crossing in New York Flanked with \$31,000,000.

Princely Residences of Cornelius Vanderbilt and Collis P. Huntington Now Being Finished.

New York Press.

More money has been lavished on private residences at the corners of Fifty-seventh street and Fifth avenue, this city, than on any other like area in the world. The spot may be spoken of as Million-

aires' Four Corners. Within a radius of 650 feet square on those corners thirty-one millions of dollars has been invested in houses wherein dwell four of the richest families in New York. On the northwest corner stands the magnificent new palace of Cornelius Vanderbilt; diagonally opposite, on the southeast corner, is the mansion, not yet completed, of Collis P. Huntington; across Fifty-seventh street from it is the white marble glare of Mrs. Paran Stevens's handsome residence, while on the southeast of the corners stands the red brick, brown stone trimmed palace of the man who made

Grover Cleveland President, ex-Secretary of the Navy William C. Whitney. The Vanderbilt colossus stands 125 feet square. It displaced five brown stone houses, for which, with the land they stood upon, Mr. Vanderbilt paid \$5,000,000. The structure that now stands practically completed on this expensive land has cost all told, \$8,000,000. That makes \$13,000,000 total. It should be told incidentally that Mr. Vanderbilt's original intention was to spend much less on his residence, but that when the hard times began and he found that the men who worked in the finer branches of building and decoration were among the first to suffer he told his architect to plan new elaborations, sparing no expense whatever, in order to keep as large a force as possible at work for a long time. This was done, and more than six hundred men have been employed on the splendid pile in one way or another all winter.

THE HUNTINGTON HOUSE. Mr. Collis P. Huntington's new palace stands on less high-priced ground, but the payment of \$3,000,000 for the one hundred feet square plot shows that the site is still beyond the reach of persons of moderate means. His house is much further from completion than is that of Mr. Vanderbilt. The latter's is already occupied by its owner. Mr. Huntington will not be able to move into his new residence until early fall. He evidently intends to surprise his friends with its interior, for it is as closely guarded from intrusion as might be the poly of holies in an eastern temple. Mr. Vanderbilt was also very careful about the admission of strangers to his house during the period of construction, although he has allowed his architects to make the details of its arrangement and finish public. One day not long before the house was ready for occupancy Mr. Vanderbilt himself went up to the door intending to examine some decorative work done the day before. A servant barred the way as he was about to "Mr. Vanderbilt has given orders that no strangers shall be admitted," said the "But I am Mr. Vanderbilt," protested the

The Huntington house is much more im-

n. How should I know?"

"Well," returned the faithful servitor, incredulously, "maybe you are and maybe you ain't. I don't know. You can't come "That's so," murmured Mr. Vanderbilt. "How should you know?" He buttoned his coat and walked away, wondering if he couldn't find some one to identify him as the owner of his own house. That night he raised that servant's wages.

bilt mansion. It rises, a sheer bulk of massive gray stone, 130 feet above the sidewalk. Its large windows are in striking contrast to the many small ones in the palace of the New York Central magnate, and the lines of design throughout are bolder but less graceful. There is very much less detail in the carving, but the two angels above the main entrance, each holding a tablet on a bended knee, over which a ready pencil is poised lightly, are of fully as fine execution and outline as anything about the other house. Both houses are surrounded by high iron palings, the iron gateway before the Fifty-eighth-street front of the Vanderbilt house being

the prize winner of the Austrian exhibit at the world's fair, it is said. Mr. Huntington's house is a purely American design; Mr. Vanderbilt's is copied in a general way from the famous French chateau of Blois. It is unquestionably the most splendid private residence in America, and few of the great mansions of Europe sur-

VANDERBILT DETAILS. It is built of fire-proof pressed brick, with carved trimmings of light Bedford stone; the roof is of red tiles. It is entered from both Fifty-seventh and Fifty-eighth streets, but the main entrance is on Fifty-seventh street. The principal door opens through a great arch into a hall of Caen stone, 40x50 feet, with a ceiling 35 feet high. On the right is the library, 25x35 feet, with a vast, low bow window commanding a view of Fifth avenue, and a small salon, 35x20, fin- ! ished in the style of Louis XVI. The grand salon on the other side is 50x35 feet, and is finished in Louis Quinze style. Adjoining this is a water color room, which connects by a staircase of Caen stone with the reception rooms. Back of the main hall is the vast ball room, where Miss Vanderbilt is to make her debut. The ceiling of this room is 35 feet high, and the room is 65x50. Next the ball room is a Moorish smoking room copied from the Alhambra, and next this is the dining room, 30x40. Of the vast sum of money lavished on this edifice some idea may be formed from the splendor of details. The main hall entrance is two bronze doors, which were cast in Italy reliefs copied from the doors of the Episcopal Palace at Milan. The floor of the vestibule is a mosaic, made by the skillful artist who is the author of the mosaic table at the Vatican, which is valued at \$100,000. At the end of the hall stands the main staircase of priceless African marble. On either side of the bottom step stands a vase which has been appraised at \$100,000. The reception rooms are to be furnished in rosewood and mother-of-pearl; the furniture will cost, it is said, half a million. The decorations of the ball room are to cost \$200,000. There are one hundred rooms all told in the palace. The Vanderbilts themselves live in one corner of it, where they have a small dining room of their own and two or three parlors, and Miss Vanderbilt has her own bedroom, bounder, breakfast room, parlor and maid's room.

in Louis Quatorze style, is one of the prettiest in the house. The walls of the boudoir-are virgin white, with blue satin curtains and furnishings. Swinging cheval mirrors stand in every corner, a superb circular mirror overhangs the mantelpiece, and the fireplace, with its shining brass fender, is a thing of beauty. The young lady's bedroom is furnished in French white enamel; the brass bed has a canopy of blue; near the bed stands the door of the prettiest and coziest bathroom ever

Of the other two houses on these Millionaires' Four Corners there is little to be said. Neither approaches in magnificence the two described; either would create a sensation if it stood elsewhere in the city. As the writer of this article turned from examination of these splendors Friday af-ternoon and walked down Fifty-seventh street a ragged and unkempt man approached him and humbly said: "I'm not asking for money, sir; but if you could only give me an old shirt I should be very thankful, indeed."

PAINSTAKING FORGERS.

Sheer Persistent Efforts to Get Signatures for Imitation. New York Herald.

"Men try in every way possible," said a prominent bank president recently, "to obtain the signatures of New York bankers. "Their object is evidently to use them in committing forgeries. At least we suspect so, and for that reason try to be as careful as possible in signing letters. "In this bank we have many letters from the West of such a trivial nature that we suspect an ulterior motive upon the part of the writers, and if we answer them at

all do so by typewriter, even to the signa-"One forger or counterfeiter in Indiana is exceedingly systematic and persistent in his efforts to obtain the signatures of our officers. As regular as the year comes around he writes, inclosing a ten-dollar bill, and requests us to send him one of our new ten-dollar national bank notes in exchange. "He always gives the same reason for the request-that he wants it for his 'collection.' Of course that is nonsense. We believe that he wants a new bill so that he may discover if we have changed our officers and get their signatures. "He never does get them, though. We always return his bill, with a typewritten let-

His Condition. Detroit Free Press. "You hang around your mother too much. You ought to get out and hustle some for yourself," urged the father, talking to his small son. "Paddle your own canoe, my

boy." I don't have to," whined the boy, "I'm

ter on paper containing no names, excusing

ourselves on the ground that we have no circulation outstanding."

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